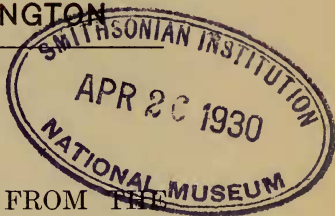


PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW BIRDS FROM THE
MOUNTAINS OF NORTHERN SIAM.

BY J. H. RILEY.¹

While carrying on an investigation of the fish resources of the country for the Siamese Government, Dr. Hugh M. Smith has been making a collection of birds in his spare time and generously presenting the results of his labors to the U. S. National Museum. In November and December of last year Dr. Smith visited the Khun Tan mountains, near the northern boundary and collected on Doi Angka (or Doi In-tanon), the highest mountain in the country, which rises to 8500 feet, and on Doi Sutep (5600 feet). He was the first Caucasian to ascend Angka. The birds collected on this trip have been recently received and many of them appear to represent forms not previously recorded from Siam. The following four are apparently new and are herewith described:

Niltava grandis nobilis, subsp. nov.

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 311593, Doi Angka, Siam, at 6000 feet, December 4, 1928, collected by Hugh M. Smith (original number 2672).

Similar to *Niltava grandis grandis*, but with the blues above somewhat lighter and brighter; outer surface of closed wing more extensively edged with blue, and the breast and belly more extensively dusky violet blue. Wing, 105.5; tail, 91; culmen, 14 mm.

Remarks.—A pair, taken on the same day at the type locality. The male more nearly resembles *Niltava grandis decipiens* in color, but the blues are not quite so purplish. In size it agrees with *Niltava grandis grandis*. At present I have no female of typical *grandis* for comparison, but the female of *nobilis* is quite different from the same sex of *decipiens*. It is not so deep a brown (tawny olive instead of snuff brown); the nape is barely tinged with grayish, instead of the whole pileum being dusky violet-blue;

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the throat is cinnamon buff, much lighter than the chest, instead of being nearly of the same color, and there are numerous other differences. This can hardly be *Niltava grandis griseiventris* La Touche (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 42, 1921, p. 14), from southeast Yunnan, which is described as being grayer on the lower abdomen with less blue edging to the wing, while in the present race the conditions are reversed.

***Niltava smithi*, sp. nov.**

Type.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 311595, summit of Doi Sutep, Siam, December 15, 1928, collected by Hugh M. Smith (original number 2769).

Similar to *Niltava sundara denotata*, but jugular patch deep colonial buff instead of white; outer edging to wing-feathers saccardo umber instead of sayal brown, with the unexposed inner webs darker; inner webs of outer tail feathers chaetura drab, the middle pair and outer webs of the outer feathers saccardo umber instead of the whole tail sayal brown; upper tail-coverts dresden brown instead of tawny. Wing, 95; tail, 68; culmen, 12 mm.

Remarks.—Only the type was taken. It is so different from the same sex in *denotata* that in my opinion it must represent a related species.

***Zosterops palpebrosa vicina*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 311617, summit of Doi Sutep, Siam, December 15, 1928, collected by Hugh M. Smith (original number 2780).

Similar to *Zosterops palpebrosa palpebrosa*, but lighter, more yellowish above, flanks less grayish, the chest suffused with a yellowish wash, with a well pronounced yellow streak down the center of the chest. Wing, 54; tail, 36.5; culmen, 11 mm.

Remarks.—This agrees with the description of *Zosterops palpebrosa cacharensis* Stuart Baker (Ibis, 1922, p. 144), but Ticehurst (Bull. Brit. Orn. Club, 47, 1927, p. 89), after examining the type, regards it as only an abnormal specimen of *palpebrosa* and states that the yellow abdominal streak is very faint and does not hold good in the majority of Assam specimens. As the mountain form of northern Siam is clearly different from *palpebrosa*, I have given it a name. Dr. Smith took a male and female at the type locality on the same day. The female lacks the yellow suffusion on the chest, the belly is whitish, and the yellow line down the center of the chest is narrower than in the male, though well defined.

***Aethopyga nipalensis angkanensis*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Adult male, U. S. National Museum, No. 311620, Doi Angka, 8400 feet, Siam, December 5, 1928, collected by Hugh M. Smith (original number 2692).

Similar to *Aethopyga nipalensis nipalensis*, but chest grenadine red

instead of being only streaked with red; secondaries tinged on the outer web with english red instead of warbler green. Wing, 52.5; tail, 59.5; culmen, 18 mm.

Remarks.—Dr. Smith took two adult males and one adult female at the type locality, between 8000 and 8400 feet. The second male is like the type. The female resembles the same sex of typical *nipalensis*, but the head and throat are tinged with grayish and the secondaries are more deeply colored (near orange-citrine instead of citrine) on the outer web. The principal difference between the males of the present form and typical *nipalensis* is the grenadine red chest, without streaks, of the former.